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BY THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES,

March 2nd, 1852.

Read and ordered to be printed.

REPORT

OF THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

TO EXAMINE

THE CONDITION OF THE

STATE TOBACCO WAREHOUSES AND WHARVES

IN THE CITY OF BALTIMORE.

REPORT.

The Committee appointed by the House of Delegates to examine the Maryland Penitentiary, were also instructed to examine into and report of the present condition of the State Tobacco Warehouses and State Wharves, after having performed the duty assigned them in reference to the Penitentiary, have agreed upon and make the following report:

Under the polite attention of the Tobacco Inspectors, your committee proceeded to investigate the subject that next claimed their attention, and take great pleasure in stating that they commenced their labors by examining Warehouse No. 1, under the polite guidance of its gentlemanly Inspector, Cæsar A. Gantt, who conducted your committee through the building, which we found in perfect and admirable order throughout the entire interior arrangement. The outside of this building, your committee also find in good condition, with the exception of the spouting, which has been on the Warehouse since 1828, and is now very much decayed. Your committee recommend its being replaced by a new one. Your committee next proceeded to examine Warehouse No. 2, under the guidance of the Inspector, Mr. Morgan, which they find as No. 1, in good order; they find on examining that part of this Warehouse fronting on Frederick street Dock, that it has never been provided with spouting, and the action of water falling from the roof on the pavement, has damaged the walls considerably, and may, in the course of time injure the foundation. Your committee would recommend the placing of spouting on this part of the building.

Your committee have also examined Warehouse No. 3, and find it in a very dilapidated condition, being very old. The foundations have given away, and the walls are in many places cracked and warped; the building being otherwise in a condition, that your committee would not advise the expenditure of much money for repairs, believing that the interest of the State would be promoted by having the house entirely rebuilt.

Your committee have also examined Warehouse No. 4, and find the interior arrangements in good and substantial order. On examining the outside, they find the painting of the shutters, window sills and doors entirely worn off by the action of the weather, and would recommend the re-painting of the same.

Your committee next visited Warehouse No. 5, and after a thorough and searching examination, find it in a condition which they consider entirely safe; the braces, stays and supports recommended and placed in the building by order of a committee appointed by a former Legislature, as an additional security against injury, caused by the giving way of the foundation, has had the effects of securing the building, so that no further dunger need be apprehended from the sinking or warping of the walls. The interior and outside of the building are in good order, and require no repairs.

Incidentally connected with the subject of the Warehouses, is the condition of the State Wharves. Upon a strict examination, we find the entire front of the Wharf, commencing at the mouth of Frederick street dock, running up the dock to the end of, and in front of Warehouse No. 2, to be in a dilapidated state, many of the principal timbers entirely decayed and projecting into the water, and but for the slight repairs made by the State Wharfinger, must ere this, have fallen into the dock. Your committee are of the opinion that the wharf should be entirely rebuilt with as little delay as possible. The other Wharves of the State, at Warehouses Nos. 1 and 3, are in good condition, and require no repairs. Your committee find at these Wharves, at an ordinary stage of the tide, an insufficient depth of water—the accumulation of sand and filth washed from the street, from time to time, having lessened the depth of the water considerably. They would recommend the removal of the obstruction, so as to allow vessels carrying Tobacco, to discharge their cargoes at all times.

Your committee having carefully examined the pier built for the accommodation of the steamboat Osiris, at the State Wharf on Pratt street, are of the opinion that the interest of the State will be promoted by allowing the pier to remain.

In conclusion, your committee would recommend that a sum of money be appropriated from the Tobacco fund, sufficient to make the repairs on the Tobacco Warehouses and Wharves, as hereinbefore recommended, which, in their opinion, will not exceed three thousand dollars.

All of which is respectfully submitted,

A. D. Miller. Chairman.